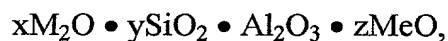


WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. Base particles for supporting a surfactant, obtainable by a step of spray-drying a slurry comprising:

- 5 (A) a zeolite having an average aggregate particle diameter of 15 μm or less and a variation coefficient of a distribution of an aggregate particle diameter of 29% or less;
- (B) a water-soluble polymer;
- (C) a water-soluble salt; and
- 10 (D) a surfactant in an amount of 5% by weight or less of the slurry.

2. The base particles according to claim 1, wherein the component (A) is a zeolite having a composition represented by a general formula:



15 wherein M is an alkali metal atom, Me is an alkaline earth metal atom, x is a number of from 0.5 to 1.5, y is a number of from 0.5 to 6, and z is a number of from 0 to 0.1.

20 3. The base particles according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the component (A) is obtainable by a process comprising mixing an aluminum source and/or a silica source under the presence of an alkaline earth metal-containing compound.

25 4. The base particles according to claim 2, wherein a raw material used in the preparation of the component (A) has a compositional ratio such that an

SiO₂/Al₂O₃ molar ratio is 0.5 or more and 6 or less; an M₂O/Al₂O₃ molar ratio is 0.2 or more and 8.0 or less; and an MeO/Al₂O₃ molar ratio is 0 or more and 0.1 or less.

5 5. The base particles according to claim 4, wherein the MeO/Al₂O₃ molar ratio is 0.005 or more and 0.1 or less.

6. The base particles according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the base particles have a 10-minute cationic exchange ability of 190 mg CaCO₃/g or more.

10 7. Detergent particles comprising the base particles of any one of claims 1 to 6.

15 8. A zeolite for a laundry detergent, wherein the zeolite has an average aggregate particle diameter of 15 μm or less and a variation coefficient of a distribution of an aggregate particle diameter of 29% or less.

20 9. A process for preparing base particles for supporting a surfactant, comprising a step of spray-drying a slurry comprising a zeolite (A) having an average aggregate particle diameter of 15 μm or less and a variation coefficient of a distribution of an aggregate particle diameter of 29% or less, a water-soluble polymer (B), a water-soluble salt (C), and optionally a surfactant (D) so as to give base particles comprising:

1 to 90% by weight of the zeolite (A);

25 2 to 25% by weight of the water-soluble polymer (B);

5 to 75% by weight of the water-soluble salt (C); and optionally
0 to 5% by weight of the surfactant (D).

10. The process according to claim 9, wherein the slurry comprises:

5

0.5 to 70% by weight of the zeolite (A);

1 to 20% by weight of the water-soluble polymer (B);

1 to 60% by weight of the water-soluble salt (C); and optionally

0 to 5% by weight of the surfactant (D).

10